

Library

BOROUGH OF



GRANTHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

of the Health of the Borough
for the Year

1953

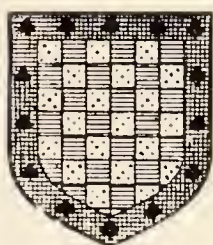
BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

BOROUGH OF



GRANTHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Health of the Borough
for the Year


1953

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29264662>

BOROUGH OF GRANTHAM

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor E. Smith (Chairman)

Councillor H. Cant (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman R. Lee, J.P.

Alderman B. H. Sindall

Councillor J. R. Cook

Councillor J. Hardaker

Councillor R. C. Moore

Councillor H. J. Pacey

Councillor A. L. Ramsden

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

R. M. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

C. TAYLOR, (a), (b), (c), (d)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

E. H. ROBERTS, (a), (b)

A. STEWART, (a), (b)

- (a) Holds Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute or of Examination Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Holds Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (c) Holds Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.
- (d) Holds Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Science.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

16, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Grantham.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health, vital statistics, and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1953.

There are certain points of interest in the figures presented on subsequent pages which call for comment. The Birth Rate shows an accelerated decline of 15%, and at 13.6 per 1,000 population has reverted to pre-war level; an indication, perhaps, that social conditions have become stabilised after the fluctuations of war and post-war years. At the same time the Death Rate rose owing to the toll taken by the chest complications of influenza on the aged, in the first quarter of the year.

Infant deaths were four less than last year but, set against the fall in births, still represent a rate disappointingly high above that for the country as a whole. Bronchopneumonia accounted for a third of these deaths; in two cases this complicated whooping cough. Three infants were lost from accidental causes.

As regards Infectious Disease, measles was epidemic in the first quarter, but relatively mild, as indicated by the fact that only one child had to be admitted to Hospital, and by the absence of deaths. Whooping cough was fortunately confined largely to the summer months but, though generally mild, was responsible, as already mentioned, for two infant deaths. Only two cases of poliomyelitis are known to have occurred; one of the two known cases of meningitis died.

An increase of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis was fully expected, in view of the visit of the Mass X-ray Unit in January. An actual decrease—the first in recent years—of four in the total was, therefore, gratifying. Deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease were only half those of recent years and reflect the great advances in treatment recently achieved. The Mass X-ray Unit surveyed nearly 2,000 more than the total reached on its previous visit; this was in part accounted for by the inclusion of school-leavers, among whom no active disease was found. The thirteen active cases picked up by the Unit represent more than half the year's lung notifications and show the great value of this technique and the support the Unit should receive on subsequent visits.

Attention must again be drawn to the deaths caused by accident and therefore eminently preventable. Road accidents provided only one quarter of these, the place of work and, above all, the home, being more deadly. It requires some imagination to recognise the risks, in one's accustomed surroundings, implied in minor disrepair, bad arrangement, or faulty equipment, but such a critical review is well worth making, especially where children and elderly persons are involved.

A comprehensive account of the Department's work in the field of housing, food hygiene and other environmental matters, follows in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have again to thank the members of the Council, colleagues in other departments, and all in the Public Health Department, for their continued interest, courtesy, and unfailing help throughout the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. ROSS.

BOROUGH OF GRANTHAM

STATISTICS

Population (Census 1951)	..	..	..	23405
Population (Mid-year estimate)	..	..	..	23460
Area of Borough	..	..	..	3868 acres
Rateable Valuation (1st April, 1953)	..	..		£153748
Sum represented by penny rate (year ending 31st March, 1953)	..	..		£605

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	154	144	298
Illegitimate	11	9	20
Birth rate per thousand estimated population			13.6
Average for England and Wales			15.5

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	2	1	3

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant Deaths	14
-----------------------	----	----	----

DEATHS	M.	F.	Total
Number of Deaths	184	134	318
Deaths per 1,000 estimated population ..			13.6
Corrected (for age and sex) death rate ..			13.1
Average for England and Wales			11.4

MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from Maternal Causes			0
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total births			0
Average for England and Wales			0.76

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS

Notifications received during the year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—
Pneumonia	35	1	13
Measles	380	1	—
Encephalitis	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	219	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	—
Total	655	5	15

Two cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis are known to have occurred, one of which died.

Age Distribution of the Notified Infectious Diseases

	Not known	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pneumonia	2	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	7	6	6	3	6	35
Measles	3	10	25	39	61	64	172	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	380
Encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	5	10	13	28	36	34	90	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	219
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	5
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Total	11	21	39	67	99	98	276	6	...	2	12	6	7	5	6	655

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	Deaths during 1953				New cases during 1953			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
15—25 years ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1
25—35 years ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
35—45 years ..	—	—	1	—	4	—	1	—
45—55 years ..	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
55—65 years ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
65 and over ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Not known ..	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
Total ..	1	—	3	1	14	10	4	1

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953	Male	Female
All causes	184	134
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	1
Syphilitic disease	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	2
Meningococcal infections	1	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	3	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	22
Coronary disease, angina	25	8
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3
Other heart disease	37	37
Other circulatory disease	14	4
Influenza	5	4
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis	12	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	19
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	5	1
Suicide	4	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—

DEATHS FROM CANCER

	Cancer of :						
	Stomach	Lung, Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	All other sites	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Male	5	2	—	—	14	21	0.89
Female	1	—	3	2	9	15	0.64
Total	6	2	3	2	23	36	1.53

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 — ANNUAL REPORT OF M.O.H.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	11	3	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	155	128	8	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers) ...	—	1	—	—
Total ...	178	140	11	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	5	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	7	11	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including those relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	1	—
Total ..	12	21	—	8	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

NURSING IN THE HOME

Home nursing and domiciliary midwifery is still carried out by the District Nurses stationed at the District Nurses' Home, Castlegate.

HOME HELPS

Help for cases of illness and maternity cases is provided through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, 40, Westgate.

GENERAL HOSPITALS

The Grantham General Hospital and the Hillview Hospital, Dysart Road, cater for the needs of the area.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS

Maternity accommodation is provided at the above two hospitals.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

There being no isolation hospital in the immediate neighbourhood, accommodation when required has to be sought in neighbouring areas.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS

Sanatorium treatment for cases requiring it is arranged by the Regional Hospital Board, who are now responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) PROVIDED BY THE KESTIVEN COUNTY COUNCIL :

Child Welfare :

Six clinics weekly held at the Clinic, 40, Westgate—Dr. in attendance once weekly.

Diphtheria Immunisation :

At the Child Welfare Clinic on Tuesday afternoons, and at Clinics held at specially arranged times for reinforcing doses. Free immunisation can also be arranged with general practitioners.

School Clinics :

Beaconfield. Minor ailments daily 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. in attendance Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Specialist services by appointment.

Day Nursery :

The Day Nursery, St. Catherine's Road, provides for children of working parents.

(b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY :

Tuberculosis :

A weekly session is held by the Chest Physician in the Grantham Hospital Out-Patients' Department, on Monday morning.

Venereal Diseases :

A weekly session is held in the Out-Patients' Department of Grantham Hospital on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., and on Fridays (males only) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Bacteriological investigations are amply provided for by the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln. All necessary chemical analyses are done by Mr. W. W. Taylor, Public Analyst, Nottingham.

—:0:—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Grantham.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my seventh annual report upon the sanitary circumstances of the borough. From the statistics given under various headings which follow, it will be seen that this year has been one of further progress in environmental hygiene work; that every endeavour is made by your Sanitary Officers to ensure and safeguard the health of the town's residents will be apparent from a perusal of the number and nature of inspections made during 1953. In this connection an increased number of inspections is shown over previous years, due of course to additional staff being available, and for the first time it was possible to organise systematic routine inspections of various categories of premises at reasonably periodic intervals; in this way it has been possible to administer and obtain compliance with various statutory regulations more effectively and to carry out health educational work by personal contact, discussions and advice, the value of which is never revealed or assessed by statistics.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply throughout the borough is constant, and is distributed by the Grantham Waterworks Company. In the central parts of the town there are still a number of standpipes in common yards which supply a varying number of the older type of houses. Except where houses are likely to be scheduled for clearance or are in the borderline category, this department has been pursuing a policy of reducing the number of these standpipes and having a separate supply to each house provided in lieu thereof. During the past year 38 houses were provided with a separate water supply. A special survey was made involving visits to 815 houses to ascertain whether an internal water supply was available.

There are a few houses in the borough which still derive water from shallow wells; eight samples of water taken from six of these wells were submitted for examination, but in only two cases was the water found to be unsatisfactory, and in both instances the mains water supply is a considerable distance away.

Twenty-six samples of water from the public supply and five samples from shallow wells were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, and were reported to be satisfactory.

Water samples sent for chemical and bacteriological examination were reported upon by the Public Analyst as shown on the following table.

Sample No.	9	10	16	17
Supplied from :	Shallow Well	Town Main	Shallow Well	Town Main
ANALYSIS—Per million parts :—				
Chemical				
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	2,120.00	390.00	730.00	380.00
Suspended Matter	5.60	absent	absent	absent
Chlorides as chlorine	35.50	21.30	60.40	21.30
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	0.50	6.25	24.00	7.00
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	0.022	0.0275	absent	absent
Free and saline Ammonia	0.036	0.012	0.028	0.068
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.120	0.008	0.112	0.008
Temporary Hardness	10.00	170.00	165.00	170.00
Permanent Hardness	1,290.00	110.00	315.00	110.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F. from n/80 KMnO ₄ .	0.68	0.08	0.64	0.00
pH value	4.70	7.50	7.10	7.50
Appearance	slightly turbid	clear and bright	clear and bright	clear and bright
Odour	none	none	none	none
Taste and colour	normal	normal	normal	normal
Heavy Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent
Free Chlorine	absent	absent	absent	absent
Bacteriological				
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 21°C. in 72 hours.	144	1	672	1
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 24 hours.	2	0	11	1
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 48 hours.	8	0	57	1
Coli-aerogenes count per 100 mls. at 37°C. in 48 hours.	3	1	5	0

Sample No.	9	10	16	17
Supplied from :	Shallow Well	Town Main	Shallow Well	Town Main
Bacteriological Faecal coli count per 100 mls. at 44°C. in 48 hours. Bacillus Coli (Presumptive) Opinion	<p>0</p> <p>Present in 50 mls.</p> <p>1. This water was, at the time of sampling, of unsuitable bacterial quality for human consumption and domestic use. The high values for nitrite nitrogen, albuminoid ammonia and oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate confirm the presence of marked organic pollution.</p> <p>2. This water was turbid, extremely hard and heavily mineralised.</p> <p>3. This water was also markedly acidic in reaction and may be expected to have strong solvent action on lead, copper, zinc, iron, mild steel, etc.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Present in 100 mls.</p> <p>At the time of sampling this water was definitely under-chlorinated. This is evidenced by the presence of coliform organisms and by the presence of nitrite nitrogen.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Present in 20 mls.</p> <p>1. At the time of sampling this water was of unsuitable bacterial quality for human consumption and domestic use.</p> <p>2. The high values for chlorides, nitrate nitrogen, albuminoid ammonia and oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 4 hours confirm the presence of marked organic pollution.</p> <p>3. This water is excessively hard.</p>	<p>0</p> <p>Absent in 100 mls.</p> <p>At the time of sampling this water was of suitable bacterial and chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes.</p>

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Sixteen houses still have pail closets, and no further conversion schemes were considered during the past year. Night soil is removed by a contractor twice a week, the annual cost for this work being £104.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All new drainage work at existing premises is supervised by your Sanitary Officers and 137 drainage systems were tested. No sewer is available in the Gorse Lane district, but most of the properties in this area are now drained into small domestic sewage treatment units.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Domestic and trade refuse was collected weekly throughout most of the year; removal of refuse from premises is carried out by the "skep" system and, whilst this method has its objections on hygienic grounds, it has been continued purely for reasons of economy; in a town with the problem of fairly long distances from dustbin site to collection vehicle it is difficult, unless all dustbins are municipally owned, to introduce any alternative system of removing refuse without either greatly increasing the collection costs or reducing the frequency of collection; at one period of the year a partial scheme of wheeling out dustbins to the kerbside was tried; this resulted in the service falling behind schedule and protests from the refuse collectors against the extra walking involved, and the scheme was abandoned.

The Council again directed its attention to the problem of future disposal of refuse, and a site in Whalebone Lane at Little Ponton was considered to meet the borough's requirements for tipping of refuse; Town Planning permission was refused because of the risk of pollution to underground water supplies, and the Council's ultimate appeal to the Ministry against this decision was not upheld.

It was, therefore, necessary to explore possible sites further afield and, after a deputation had visited the Ministry, the Council decided to seek Town Planning approval to the use of an old sand-pit at Sudbrook, which is eight miles from the town, for the purpose of refuse disposal and, if approval was granted, to open negotiations with the owners for the purchase of the site.

In the meantime, refuse continued to be disposed of by incineration at the Destructor Works, any surplus refuse being tipped at the limited tipping ground in Dysart Road.

Salvaging of waste paper was recommenced in September, and the offer of a six month contract from a paper mill was accepted; the sales for the year realised £380. At the request of the Joint

Scrap Survey District Committee of the British Iron and Steel Federation, a scrap metal drive was held in October, 12 tons 14 cwt. of scrap metal being recovered.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

An application for a licence to use a site in Belton Lane for the stationing of a caravan was refused; there are no licensed sites in the town, but a properly controlled and established site would provide a useful need for caravans which come into the town for a short period.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A tabulated summary of work carried out in connection with rodent control is given below; it is difficult to understand why many allotment holders who keep pigs and poultry do not take advantage of the free service offered by the Council in dealing with rat infestations; by fulfilling their statutory obligation to notify infestations, they would not only obtain a free and expert service, but would greatly assist the control of these pests. As usual your Rodent Officer attended to his duties and all complaints in his customary efficient and conscientious manner.

Work done during 1953 is summarised below:—

	Council property	Dwelling property	Business property	Agri- cultural property	Total
No. of properties surveyed	7	703	253	6	969
No. found to be infested with rats or mice ...	4	114	39	1	158
No. treated for rats or mice	4	114	39	1	158
No. of visits made for the purpose of treating properties	24	684	234	6	948

Two maintenance treatments of the town sewers were undertaken with the following results :—

From 9.3.53 to 14.3.53				From 21.9.53 to 26.9.53			
No. of manholes pre-baited	..	123		No. of manholes pre-baited	..	137	
No. found to be rat infested	..	94		No. found to be rat infested	..	120	
No. of pre-baits laid	..	246		No. of pre-baits laid	..	274	
No. of manholes poison baited		94		No. of manholes poison baited		120	

Owing to heavy infestation in some sections, 8 oz. Poison Baits were laid where complete takes of pre-baits were found.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

From general observations made during 1953, atmospheric smoke pollution would seem to be on the increase in Grantham, and in some cases this was found to be due to careless operation or overloading of boiler plant. It was found necessary to draw the attention of certain firms to excessive smoke emission from their factory chimneys, and also to British Railways with regard to excessive smoke emission from railway engines operating at the railway sidings.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Routine inspections of many factories were made and figures relating to these and service of notices under the Factories Act, 1937, are given on page 9.

Six certificates were issued under Section 34 of the Act, specifying that means of escape in case of fire were reasonably adequate.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No. of Premises registered	5
----------------------------	-----	-----	---

The number of samples submitted for analysis and found to comply with the statutory regulations were as follows:—

Washed Wool Flock	...	...	...	2
Woollen Felt	...	...	...	1
Jute Felt	...	...	...	2
Brown Rugging	...	...	...	1
Black Fibre	...	...	...	1

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1953

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department	...	442
Inspection of dwellings where nuisances were found	...	393
Inspection of other premises where nuisances were found		68
Inspection of premises upon complaint where no nuisances were found		82
Re-visits to properties under notice or works in progress	...	3280
Inspection of houses (Housing Act, 1936)	...	23
Preliminary housing survey (Housing Act, 1936)	...	82
Re-inspection of houses (Housing Act, 1936)	...	143
Visits in connection with overcrowding	...	72
Miscellaneous visits to properties other than above	...	381
Visits in connection with drainage of premises	...	217
New drains tested	...	110
Old drains tested	...	27

Visits to bakehouses	58
„ „ dairies and milk shops	77
„ „ ice-cream premises	179
„ „ miscellaneous food stores and food preparing rooms	182
„ „ cooked food and “making-up” premises ...	92
„ „ factories (with mechanical power)	128
„ „ factories (with no mechanical power)	11
„ „ factories (re means of fire escape)	6
„ „ outworkers' premises	1
„ „ fried fish shops	48
„ „ markets, shops and stalls	84
„ „ offensive trade premises	19
„ „ dwelling vans	34
„ „ verminous premises	20
„ „ rat infested lands and premises	50
„ „ cafes and cafe kitchens	110
„ „ cinemas and places of public entertainment ...	1
„ „ shops (Shops Act, 1950, Section 38)	163
„ „ slaughterhouse	593
„ „ wholesale meat supply depot	36
„ „ meat purveyors	100
„ „ piggeries	41
„ „ schools	7
Visits in connection with smoke abatement	38
„ „ „ „ refuse collection and disposal ...	418
„ „ „ „ salvage collection and disposal ...	44
„ „ „ „ infectious disease and suspected food poisoning	25
Visits under Rag Flock Act	7
Inspection of licensed premises	154
Number of interviews with builders or owners	624
„ „ samples of water taken for analysis	35
„ „ informal notices served	380
„ „ statutory notices served	36

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

(a) THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Milk Distributors :

Number on Register at 1st January, 1953	13
Number on Register at 31st December, 1953	14

Dairy Premises :

Number on Register at 1st January, 1953	4
Number on Register at 31st December, 1953	3

Thirty-nine samples of ungraded milk were taken during the year and were reported upon as follows:—

No. of samples not decolour- ising methylene blue in 4½ hours	No. of samples decolourising methylene blue in 4 hours or less	No. of samples decolourising methylene blue in 2 hours or less	No. of samples decolourising methylene blue in less than 1 hour.
29	5	4	1

Fifty-one biological samples were taken during the year. Four of these were reported to be positive, but two of them were repeat samples from herds which had given positive results in December of the previous year; in the case of all positive samples details are forwarded by the County Health Department to the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Kesteven County Council is the licensing authority for the only pasteurisation establishment in the borough. Sixteen samples of pasteurised milk were taken by the Borough Sanitary Officers and were found to comply with the standard laid down in the Regulations; in addition, the County Sanitary Officer frequently takes samples from this establishment.

Number of Dealers' Licences issued authorising the use of the designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from shops	14
Number of Supplementary Licences issued authorising the use of the designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk retailed in the town by an outside firm	1

(c) THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested":

Number of Dealers' Licences issued	2
Number of Supplementary Licences issued	1
Number of samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk	55
Number found to be satisfactory	44
Number failing to satisfy the methylene blue test	11

The percentage failing to satisfy the methylene blue test was rather high and, as in the previous year, this would seem to point to the time lag between actual production and delivery to the consumer; all licensed dealers were warned that they should make arrangements with the producers concerned to bring about a reduction in this time lag, and where this was not possible, for satisfactory cold storage arrangements to be made.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

(a) SAMPLES OF FOOD

Kesteven County Council is the "Food and Drugs Authority," and Mr. E. T. Hawley, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector for that authority, has kindly supplied the following details of samples taken in the Borough of Grantham during 1953.

" Almonds (ground)	...	...	2
Butterscotch	...	...	1
Cherries (glace)	...	...	1
Cornflour	...	...	1
Cream (double)	...	...	3
Eye lotion	...	...	1
Fish cakes	...	...	1
Fish paste	...	...	1
Ginger (crystallised)	...	...	1
Ice cream	...	...	5
Milk	...	...	30
Milk (sterilised)	...	...	1
Olive oil B.P.	...	...	1
Peanut butter	...	...	1
Pepper (white)	...	...	1
Peppermint tablets	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	3
Rice flakes	...	...	1
Salts (aperient)	...	...	1
Vermouth	...	...	1

All these samples were certified by the Public Analyst (Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Nottingham) to be genuine."

(b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

	Manu- facture and Sale of Ice Cream	Sale of Loose Ice Cream	Sale of Pre-Packed Ice Cream
Premises registered 1st Jan. 1953	6	24	32
Premises registered during the year	—	3	5
Registrations cancelled due to cessation of business	3	—	—
Premises registered 31st Dec. 1953	3	27	37

Result of Bacteriological Samples (Methylene Blue Test) :

Number classified in Grade 1	...	64
Number classified in Grade 2	...	39
Number classified in Grade 3	...	17
Number classified in Grade 4	...	1

Total Number of Samples taken	121
-------------------------------	-----

179 visits were made to ice cream premises for the purposes of inspection and sampling, and the number of samples taken shows an increase over the previous year; a fairly high hygienic standard in the production and distribution of ice cream has been maintained, but it was noted that, in a few cases, some shopkeepers were rather careless at times in maintaining ice cream at a proper refrigerated temperature.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

A considerable amount of time was devoted by your Sanitary Officers in making inspections of the various categories of food shops, stores, and preparation rooms. These routine inspections seem to be achieving improved standards in relation to hygienic condition of the various premises, and occupiers have created no difficulties when requested to effect improvements; an air of casualness on the part of some food employees does, however, still prevail, and with it the failure to realise that personal hygiene plays an important part in the prevention of food poisoning. It will be necessary for us to direct more attention to this side of food hygiene work, and in this respect the proposed new food regulations should be a considerable help.

The use of sawdust on the floor of butchers' shops appears to be a general practice, but it was surprising to find in one instance that a thick layer of straw was being used, and in this case the Health Committee decided to issue a warning that this practice was considered contrary to the bye-laws.

Regular visits were made to the open market held every Saturday morning, and the bye-laws relating to the sale of food in the open air have been rigidly enforced; the standard attained is now quite good; one prosecution for failure to exhibit the name and address on a stall was taken and a fine of £1.1s. was imposed.

Progress was maintained in securing improvements to licensed premises, but a number still remain to be brought up to a better hygienic standard.

Below is a list of various types of food premises in the borough and a table showing various improvements effected during the past year.

Number of premises registered for the preparation of sausage and meat products	29
Number of bakehouses	24
Number of fish frying premises	18
Number of cafes and snack bars	15
Number of factory canteens and other catering premises ...	20
Number of grocery and miscellaneous stores	74

Improvements Effected	Sausage etc. Manufacturing Premises	Bakehouses	Hotel and Cafe Kitchens	Factory Canteens	Licensed Premises	Fish Frying Premises	Other Food Shops and Stores	Total
Cleansed and Redecorated ...	2	6	4	2	6	1	6	27
Structurally Improved ...	2	3	1	—	6	—	3	15
Constant Hot Water Supply Provided ...	1	—	1	1	1	1	5	10
Improved Washing Facilities ...	1	1	—	1	6	—	4	13
Improved Sanitary Accommodation	1	2	—	—	11	—	4	18
Otherwise Hygienically Improved ...	2	6	2	—	1	5	6	22
Unsatisfactory Premises Discontinued	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The slaughtering of animals for human consumption both for the Borough of Grantham and the West Kesteven Rural District was carried out, as in previous years, at the Government controlled Slaughterhouse in Inner Street. Meat inspection was done by the Borough Sanitary Officers, and the work consistently entailed evening visits and Sunday duty. During the past two years there has been quite an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered; many casualty animals are sent in to this slaughterhouse, and these require detailed examination to determine if the meat from such animals is fit for human consumption.

Statistics relating to meat inspection work for the year 1953 are tabulated below :—

	Cattle (exCows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1183	466	319	5233	1601
Number inspected	1183	466	319	5233	1601

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole Carcases condemned ...	2	5	29	28	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	255	161	—	130	160
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	21.7	35.6	9.1	3.0	11.6

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole Carcases condemned ...	5	13	2	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	116	117	—	—	65
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	10.2	27.9	0.6	—	4.2

The entire carcases and organs of the following animals were condemned for the reasons stated:—

1 Bull	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Steer	”
3 Heifers	”
13 Cows	”
2 Pigs	”
2 Calves	Congenital Tuberculosis
1 Heifer	Oedema
1 Cow	”
3 Calves	”
6 Sheep	”
4 Pigs	”
3 Cows	Emaciation
4 Sheep	”
1 Sheep	Anaemia
1 Steer	Toxaemia
1 Sheep	Septicaemia
1 Pig	Sapraemia

1 Sheep	...	...	Septic Peritonitis
1 Pig	...	...	"
1 Pig	...	...	Septic Pericarditis
1 Sheep	...	...	Uraemia
1 Pig	...	...	"
4 Calves	...	...	Pyæmia
1 Sheep	...	...	Acute Fever
11 Pigs	...	...	"
3 Calves	...	...	Moribund
5 Sheep	...	...	"
1 Pig	...	...	"
18 Calves	...	...	Immaturity
1 Cow	...	...	Extensive and severe bruising
5 Sheep	...	...	Extensive injuries
5 Pigs	...	...	Acute Swine Erysipelas
1 Calf	...	...	Acute Enteritis
1 Sheep	...	...	Braxy
1 Sheep	...	...	Ill-bled and badly set
1 Sheep	...	...	Jaundice

The total weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption was 21 tons 14 cwts., of which 10 tons 14 cwts. was affected with Tuberculosis.

As in previous years, quantities of miscellaneous food commodities were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, including:—

Canned foods	...	...	...	...	2849
Miscellaneous preserved food products					244 jars
Ham	...	...	...	...	42 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	71 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	91 lbs.
Bath Chaps	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Imported Beef	...	...	...	...	23 lbs.
Corned Mutton	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the 31st December, 1953, was 21.

HOUSING STATISTICS

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Statistics of new houses erected in the borough during 1953, as supplied by T. J. Livesey, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.S.E., A.M.I.M.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, are as follows:—

1. BUILT BY LOCAL AUTHORITY	175
2. BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	13

HOUSING ACT, 1936—UNFIT HOUSES

At the end of 1953 there were 45 houses still remaining occupied which have been condemned under Section 11. Re-housing of families from unfit housing accommodation remains a slow and tardy procedure, in view of the Council's policy of allowing only 6% of new houses built to be allocated for this purpose. From information supplied by the Housing Department there are still 1,002 applications for Council houses; during 1953 the number of families provided with housing accommodation was 225, of which 20 were from condemned houses, although some of the latter, it must be said, had been on the waiting list for some time. The House Letting Committee has undoubtedly a difficult task in selecting tenants from such a long waiting list, and several tenants living in condemned houses have made no application for a Council house; where this is the case the efforts of the Public Health Department to secure demolition of condemned houses is being retarded, particularly as there is no legal obligation on the local authority to re-house families from houses dealt with under Section 11.

Repairs to houses are usually effected by appropriate action under the Public Health Act, 1936, rather than by action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and little difficulty is experienced in securing essential repairs, although it has been found that the pace at which the Public Health Department can bring about repairs and improvements to existing houses is being rather restricted by the rate at which local builders can undertake such work; local building contractors, plumbers, etc., seem to have many calls on their services and, for this reason, notices requiring repairs to houses are often not complied with for many weeks, even though owners have readily given instructions for work to be carried out.

The following statistics indicate the action taken under the Housing Act, 1936 during 1953:—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—Section 11	...	...	...	...	...	12
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	27
Number of dwelling houses demolished after Undertakings had been accepted not to re-let	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted not to let again for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of dwelling houses made fit after formal notice under Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING

Number of houses visited upon complaint of overcrowding	72
Number of houses found to be overcrowded during the year	18
Number of families dwelling therein	28
Number of persons dwelling therein	103
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by the Council during the year	7
Number of cases of overcrowding otherwise relieved ...	6

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. TAYLOR.

